

Unconfirmed minutes – subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the Crawley County Local Committee

Crawley County Local Committee

28 June 2018 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 pm in the Longley Room, Crawley Library, Southgate Avenue, Crawley, RH10 6HG.

Present:

Mrs Smith (Chairman) (Langley Green & Ifield East), Mr Burrett (Pound Hill), Mr Crow (Tilgate & Furnace Green), Mr Jones (Southgate & Gossops Green), Mr Lanzer (Maidenbower & Worth), Mrs Mullins (Northgate & West Green) and Mr Quinn (Broadfield)

Apologies were received from Mr Oxlade (Bewbush & Ifield) and Mr Petts (Three Bridges)

In attendance: Adam Chisnall (Democratic Services Officer), Brian Lambarth (Area Highways Manager), Guy Pace (Lead Professional - Community Safety), Chief Inspector Rosie Ross (Crawley and Mid Sussex District Police Commander), Deborah Myers (Director of Education and Skills) and Marie Ovenden (Growth Programme Delivery Manager)

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1 Adam Chisnall opened the meeting and the Members and Officers introduced themselves.

2. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

2.1 Resolved – That:

- Mrs Smith is elected as Chairman of the Crawley County Local Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year.
- Mr Burrett is elected as Vice-Chairman of the Crawley County Local Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year.

2.2 The Chairman informed the public of literature in the room for the County Council's 'What Matters To You' Survey and information for the 'Be Scam Aware' campaign.

3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 Mr Quinn declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Crawley Town Community Foundation in relation to the discussion on Community Initiative Funding.

3.2 Mrs Mullins declared a personal interest as a member of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award County Committee in relation to the discussion on Community Initiative Funding.

4. **Minutes**

4.1 Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. **Urgent Matters**

5.1 The Committee agreed the inclusion of a new Community Initiative Fund application that had been received after the dispatch of papers for the meeting:

- 231/C – Walking For Wellbeing.

6. **Progress Statement**

6.1 The Committee considered the progress report on matters arising from previous meetings (copy appended to the signed minutes).

6.2 Brian Lambarth introduced the report and explained the process for progressing the Community Highway Schemes.

6.3 The Committee queried the progress of the Green Lane TRO. – *Brian Lambarth confirmed this would come to the next Committee meeting for consideration.*

6.4 The Chairman asked the public if they had any questions.

- A resident queried the lack of consultation for Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) and said that small advertisements in the newspaper were not sufficient. The resident raised concerns over a developer parking TRO for Ravens Court in Langley Green. – *Brian Lambarth explained that the scheme was part of a development and that the statutory consultation process had been adhered to. Brian Lambarth resolved to monitor the impact of the TRO.*

7. **Crime**

7.1 The Committee welcomed Guy Pace, Lead Professional - Community Safety, and Chief Inspector Rosie Ross, Crawley and Mid Sussex District Police Commander, who gave a presentation on Vulnerable Individuals and Hidden Crime (copy appended to the signed minutes).

7.2 It was reported that Crawley and Mid Sussex Division had set up a crime group to focus on serious and organised crime.

7.3 The presentation highlighted the community role in reporting crime. Suspicious behaviour such as multiple visitors at different times of the day should be reported to the police for investigation.

7.4 The public were asked what they felt the barriers to crime reporting were; answers included believing others would report crime, that the Police should be doing this, concern at being a 'nosy neighbour', reporting something in error, impact on the children and families involved. The

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responses were welcomed and the public were encouraged to trust their instincts and be curious of odd behaviour. Dialling 101 was recommended to raise concerns. 999 should always be utilised to report a crime in progress.

7.5 Rosie Ross explained the need for the Police to prioritise their focus for serious crime and vulnerable individuals.

7.6 Rosie Ross reported that she met with Community Forums to build links with the public to understand how the Police could support communities.

7.7 Members explained that residents often contacted them with low level crime issues and sought guidance on how best to direct these issues. – *Rosie Ross explained that the local contact addresses were not for reporting crimes, but for informing of issues. There was also a mechanism for local Members to contact the Police about issues. It was agreed that up-to-date contact details for key officers of Crawley Police would be circulated to Members after the meeting.*

7.8 The Committee welcomed the presentation and thanked the presenters for their attendance at the Committee.

8. **Thomas Bennett Community College**

8.1 The Chairman noted the public concern about Thomas Bennett Community College (TBCC) and had therefore agreed to take any questions from the public on the current situation with the school at that point in the agenda.

8.2 A resident raised concerns on the rise of home schooling, safeguarding issues, PFI issues, Pupil Premium usage, impact on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and the loss of teaching staff.

8.3 Mr Burrett explained that school funding was a general concern and that lobbying of the Government was happening on this. Local Authorities had no control and little influence over Academies and so parents were encouraged to take issues up with the school's Head.

8.4 The Committee commented that the impact of failing Academies could put pressure on Local Authority maintained schools to take extra students.

8.5 Deborah Myers, Director of Education and Skills, explained that if TBCC had been a Local Authority maintained school, she would have been involved a long time ago and expressed the difficulty with the lack of influence over Academies. As soon as issues were realised with TBCC, Deborah Myers had written to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) as she had a duty of care for all children in the County.

8.6 Interventions had taken place to ensure designated teachers remained in post. Local schools had also been contacted to ensure that the post 16 provision demand would be met.

8.7 Deborah Myers reported that there were no safeguarding concerns at TBCC.

8.8 Deborah Myers explained that she had tried to discuss renegotiation of the PFI with the RSC, but had been unsuccessful. Reassurance was given that the PFI contract did cover all premises costs and other areas such as maintenance for the school. It was explained how pupil numbers impacted the budget, which was making TBCC's share of the contract seem more expensive in relation to the other two schools which were also subject to the PFI contract. Deborah Myers explained that from a financial point of view, a healthy budget position for a school should look to assign 80% of expenditure towards staff costs.

8.9 Concerns were raised by all that academisation was a one way street and that there should be provision for Academies to return to the Local Authority. Support was required to ensure that TBCC provision was not lost.

8.10 The Committee and the public thanked Deborah Myers for her attendance.

9. **Growth Update**

9.1 The Committee welcomed Marie Ovenden, Growth Programme Delivery Manager, who gave a presentation on the Crawley Growth Programme (copy appended to the signed minutes).

9.2 Marie Ovenden explained that the County Council and Borough Council had worked together on the £60m Growth Programme, which included an award of £14.6m from the Local Enterprise Partnership. This investment would support growth in jobs and homes in Crawley.

9.3 The Committee made comments including those that follow.

- Queried if the proposals included bespoke concrete bus lanes. – *Marie Ovenden confirmed that the proposals would incorporate universal bus lanes.*
- Requested an update on the plans for step free access at Crawley Railway Station. – *Marie Ovenden explained that officers were aware of the need to link this and would ensure an oversight of this project to improve access at the Station.*

9.4 The public made comments including those that follow.

- Queried the lack of bus timetable information on Turners Hill Road, Worth. – *Marie Ovenden resolved to look into this and provide an update in the Progress Statement for the next meeting.*
- Raised the importance of greenery within the projects. – *Marie Ovenden explained that key areas such as Manor Royal had protected greenery to maintain their trees.*
- *The public were encouraged to visit the Growth Plan website and provide feedback on the designs.*

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9.5 The Committee thanked Marie Ovenden for the presentation.

10. Crawley Community Initiative Funding (C01(18/19))

10.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Assurance (copy appended to the signed minutes), which detailed applications for Community Initiative Funding. The Committee debated the respective merits of the projects for which funding was sought.

10.2 The Chairman informed the Committee that application 217/C - Rape Crisis Surrey and Sussex, Support for Survivors, was withdrawn by the applicant after the papers had been dispatched.

10.3 Resolved – that the following pledges were approved:-

- 213/C - Caroline Haslett Memorial Project, up to £400, towards a consultation for a memorial project.
- 214/C - Crawley Town Community Foundation, Move the Goalposts, up to £400, towards equipment costs for the project.
- 215/C - Crawley Open Duke of Edinburgh Centre, up to £3000, towards a new mini bus. This pledge was subject to the project receiving verification from Locality and beginning the active fundraising stage within the financial year.
- 216/C - Crawley Young Persons' Council, Multi-Cultural Crawley, up to £700, towards an event to bring together the different cultures and ethnic groups within Crawley and celebrate their individuality with food, performances and activities. This pledge was subject to the project receiving verification from Locality and beginning the active fundraising stage within the financial year.
- 230/C – Wheelchair Swing and Hoist-Assisted Toilet for Maidenbower Park Community Club, up to £4000, towards the cost of a wheelchair accessible swing.

The following application was declined:-

- 231/C – Walking For Wellbeing, towards park buggy walks. The Committee declined the application as the total project costs were for staffing, which is ineligible for Community Initiative Funding. The Committee welcomed a future application in a format it could support.

11. Nominations for Local Authority Governors to Maintained Schools and Academy Governing Bodies (C02(18/19))

11.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Education and Skills (copy appended to the signed minutes).

11.2 Resolved – that the Committee approves the following nomination for appointment under the 2012 Regulations:

- Mrs Angela Parkinson to the Maidenbower Junior School, Crawley, for a four year term.

12. **Talk With Us Open Forum**

12.1 The Chairman introduced the item and advised that the open forum was an opportunity for comments and questions to be raised on items not already on the agenda, and over which the County Council has jurisdiction. The following issues were raised and responses made.

- A resident welcomed the progress on resurfacing in Mitchells Road and Haslett Avenue and requested an update on North Road. - *Brian Lambarth resolved to speak with the resident.*
- A resident raised a concern on lack of Police in the area on Halloween and a hope for improved support this year.
- A resident requested an update on the Road Space Audit. - *Mr Lanzer resolved to send details to the resident.*
- A resident highlighted the upcoming expiry of the 40 year agreement with Gatwick Airport Limited not to build a second runway. - *Mr Lanzer reported that the agreement expired on 12 August 2019 and that Gatwick Airport Limited was under no commitment to renew the agreement with the County Council.*

13. **Date of Next Meeting**

13.1 The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting would take place on 15 November 2018 in The Longley Room, Crawley Library, Southgate Avenue, Crawley, RH10 6HG.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 9.38 pm